

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A power supply apparatus supplies electric power to a substrate carrier container having a rechargeable cell. The power supply apparatus comprises a body for seating a substrate carrier container thereon, a seating detecting device provided on the body for detecting whether the substrate carrier container is seated on the body or not, and a power supply connector movably provided on the body. The power supply apparatus further comprises a control mechanism for bringing the power supply connector into contact with a charging terminal of the substrate carrier container to charge the rechargeable cell in the substrate carrier container according to a detected signal from the seating detecting device.